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# UM News

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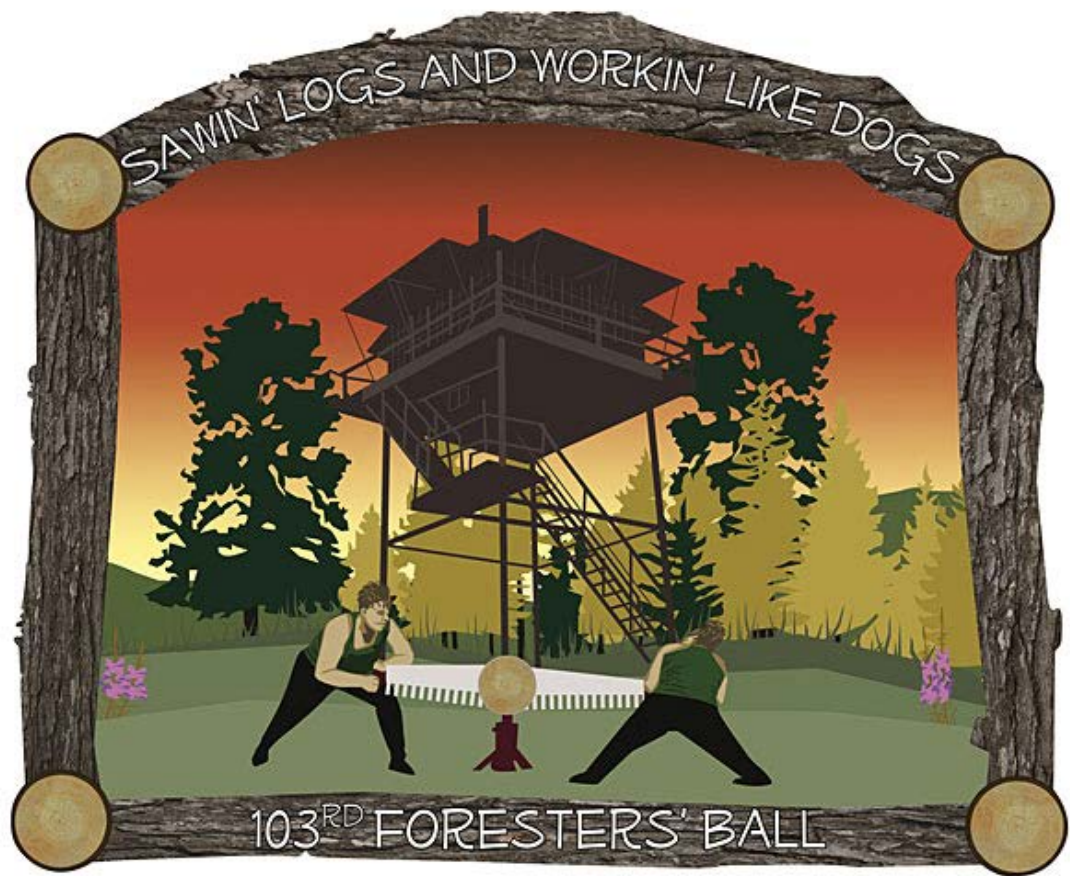
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# UM to Host 103rd Foresters' Ball

January 31, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Break out the flannel and work boots. The 103rd edition of the Foresters' Ball will hit the University of Montana Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8.

This signature UM event will run from 7 p.m. to midnight both nights in Schreiber Gym. The Foresters' Ball is an event with live music that raises money for student



scholarships.

Students spend a week transforming Schreiber Gym into a

turn-of-the-century logging town with a saloon, barbershop (provided by Master Barber of Missoula), chow hall, general store, working jail with a sheriff, chapel to get “married” and “divorced,” museum and beer garden.

Local Missoula band 406 will provide music for a lot of dancing and a “Swingin’ Good Time.” Tickets can be purchased on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), as well as in-person in the University Center the week of Feb. 3. Discounted student tickets are available.

This year’s theme, “Sawin’ Logs and Workin’ Like Dogs” was created by Chief Push Heather Robertson, a senior forestry major from Castro Valley, California. The theme’s logo came from a photo of Robertson and last year’s Foresters’ Ball Chief Push Emily Onderbeke taken during their winning cut at Squamish Days Loggers Sports Festival in British Columbia last summer.

Foresters’ Ball offers a weekend-long celebration with fun opportunities for the entire community to learn more about forestry and conservation. Events beyond the dance include:

- **Community Forestry Day.** This event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 8**, in Schreiber Gym. Hosted by the Forestry Scholarship Association in conjunction with Foresters’ Ball, Community Forestry Day is a free event designed for children and families. It’s an opportunity to see the Foresters’ Ball during daylight hours. Organizations from UM and the local community will have interactive booths full of games, prizes and more.
- **Foresters’ Ball Auction Dinner.** This dining experience will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 8**, in Schreiber Gym. Hosted by the Forestry Scholarship Association, this fundraiser dinner includes a full plate of Montana barbecue and a silent auction. Tickets cost \$25, and advanced purchase is required by Feb. 4. For

more information, visit the Forestry Scholarship Association website at <https://www.fsamt.org/>.

###

**Contact:** Priya Keller, 103rd UM Foresters' Ball publicity officer, [forestersball@gmail.com](mailto:forestersball@gmail.com); Kasey Rahn, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation communications director, 406-243-6693, [kasey.rahm@umontana.edu](mailto:kasey.rahm@umontana.edu).



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# Community Lecture Series at UM to Focus on 19th Amendment

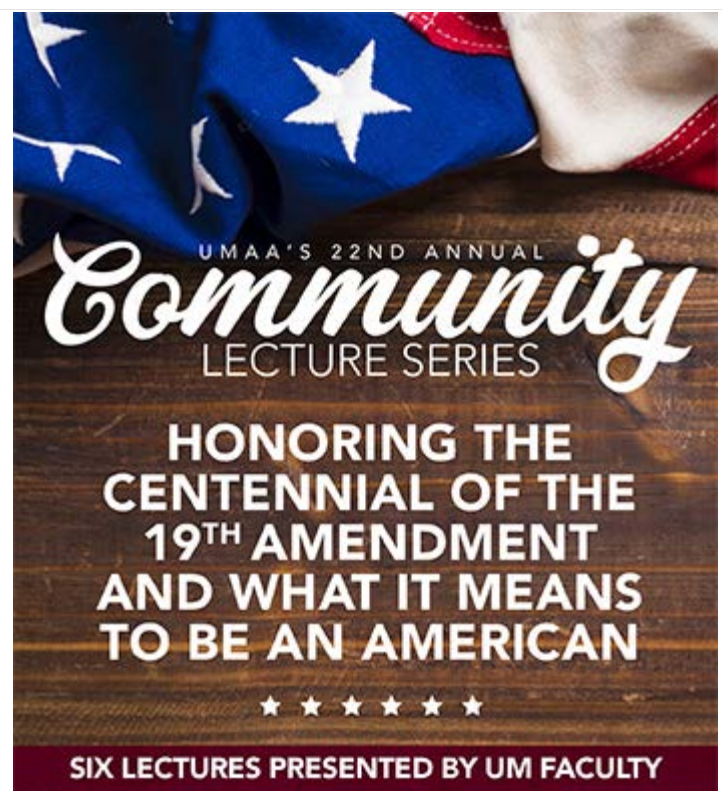
January 30, 2020

**MISSOULA** – It has been 100 years since the ratification of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which allowed women to vote. To honor this achievement, the 2020 Community Lecture Series, hosted by the University of Montana Alumni Association, will focus on American citizenship.

The 22nd annual CLS, “Honoring the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and What it Means to be an American,” features UM faculty presenting a series of six lectures from the perspectives of law, feminism, minority rights, politics, Native American women and sociology.

Each lecture takes place on a Tuesday and begins at 7 p.m. in UM’s University Center Theater. The lectures are:





- **Feb. 11:** “The Story of Citizenship in the Constitution,” Anthony Johnstone, Helen and David Mason Professor of Law and professor of public administration at the UM Blewett School of Law.

Johnstone teaches and writes about federal and state constitutional law, legislation, election law, jurisprudence and related subjects. Before joining the School of Law, he served as the solicitor for the State of Montana, practiced litigation as an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York and clerked for the Honorable Sidney R. Thomas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Yale University and a Juris Doctor with honors from the University of Chicago Law School.

- **Feb. 18:** “Women and Citizenship: Jeannette Rankin and the Fight for the Vote,” Sara Hayden, professor in the UM Department of Communication Studies.

Hayden’s research focuses on rhetorical criticism and theory. In her work, she integrates interests in the social construction of gender, feminist theory and feminist movements. She has published and presented essays exploring both contemporary and historical rhetoric surrounding women’s health, reproduction, sexuality education, maternity and the abortion debate in the U.S. Her current work focuses on the rhetorical construction of maternity.

- **Feb. 25:** “Trains, Dolls and Demands on the Devil: The Precarious Position of Minority Rights,” Tobin Shearer, director of UM’s African-American Studies program and professor of history.

Shearer conducts research into the history of race and religion in the U.S. with a particular emphasis on prayer, the civil rights movement and white identity. He recently was named a Montana University System Teaching Scholar by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for developing high-impact teaching practices for student success and serving as an excellent model for others in higher education.

- **March 3:** “Women, Public Policy and Politics,” Sara Rinfret, chair of the UM Department of Public Administration and Policy and director for the Master of Public Administration Program.

Rinfret teaches courses on regulatory and environmental policy, state and local government, and public policy and administration. Her research focuses on environmental regulations, especially the interactions between agencies and interest groups during the stages of environmental rule-making at the federal and state level. She has published five books and contributed to multiple journals, including the Oxford Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy. In 2018, she earned UM's Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year award.

- **March 10:** "Native American Women and Citizenship," Kate Shanley, professor and chair of Native American Studies at UM.

Shanley has published widely in the field of Native American literature, most notably on the work of Blackfeet/Gros Ventre writer James Welch and Ojibwe writer Gerald Vizenor. She co-edited "Mapping Indigenous Presence" in 2014 and currently co-edits the Yale University Press "Henry Roe Cloud American Indians and Modernity" series. Shanley served as president of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association from 2011 to 2013 and as a regional liaison for the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program for 15 years. She is an enrolled Nakoda from the Ft. Peck Reservation in Montana, where she grew up.

- **March 17:** "Who am I? Sorting Out American Identity," Kathy Kuipers, UM associate professor, director of Graduate Studies and former chair in the Department of Sociology.

Kuipers also is affiliated with the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and teaches various courses centered on inequality and social justice, gender and social psychology. Kuipers received recognition for mentoring Native American students in 2015 and earned the 2017 William Reynolds Award from the College of Humanities and Sciences at UM for excellence in teaching across the curriculum. Her scholarly articles have appeared in national sociological journals, and she supervises the Social Psychology Research Group, a faculty and student workshop on grants and research. Kuipers is active in the Pacific Sociological Association and was elected vice president for 2018-19.

CLS series tickets cost \$25, \$20 for UMAA members, \$10 for students or \$10 for each individual lecture. They are available online at <https://grizalum.org/events/cls/default.php>.

###

**Contact:** UM Alumni Association, 406-243-5211, [alumni@umontana.edu](mailto:alumni@umontana.edu).

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# Montana Tourism 2019: Nonresident Spending Down, Visitor Numbers Up

January 29, 2020

**MISSOULA** – About 12.6 million nonresidents visited Montana in 2019 and spent around \$3.6 billion in the Treasure State, according to preliminary estimates by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana.

The number of





travelers visiting the state in 2019 appears to have increased slightly, up 2%

compared to 2018. Despite the higher number of individual travelers, third quarter spending was down just over 1% compared to third quarter 2018. Slightly smaller group sizes, combined with shorter average stays in Montana, resulted in around a 2% decrease in total spending compared to 2018.

Visitor spending during 2019 supported an estimated 40,700 jobs directly and more than 56,000 jobs in total. Associated with those jobs is over \$1.08 billion of labor income directly supported by nonresident spending.

An additional \$602 million of labor income is indirectly supported by nonresident travel spending. These travelers contributed more than \$222 million in state and local taxes in 2019.

These figures will be updated this spring, with the most recent fourth quarter data from 2019 replacing the 2018 fourth quarter data used in these early estimates. This preliminary report can be found at <http://itrr.umt.edu/files/Prelim2019NonresExp.pdf>. All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu>.

###

**Contact:** Kara Grau, assistant director of economic analysis, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-5107, [kara.grau@umontana.edu](mailto:kara.grau@umontana.edu); Jeremy Sage, ITRR associate director, 406-243-5552, [jeremy.sage@umontana.edu](mailto:jeremy.sage@umontana.edu).

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# UM Team Accepted Into Techstars Accelerator Program

January 28, 2020

### MISSOULA –

Charmed, a Missoula-based startup company assisted by the University of Montana, has been selected for the prestigious Techstars Boulder Accelerator program, which accepts less than 1% of applicants.

Charmed was supported by UM-based Blackstone





## LaunchPad powered

by Techstars. Founded with support from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, the organization works to boost entrepreneurship among UM students, faculty, employees and alumni, as well as the broader Montana business community.

"This is believed to be the first time a Montana startup has been accepted into a Techstars accelerator, making this a huge accomplishment," said Paul Gladen, director of Blackstone LaunchPad at UM. "It's also just the third venture from across the Blackstone LaunchPad global network of campuses accepted into Techstars, the leading global high-tech startup accelerator."

Charmed (<https://www.charmed.app/>) provides online daters with real-time advice from friends and experts about their conversations on any dating app. The startup has worked with the Blackstone LaunchPad since spring 2018, benefiting from coaching and connections to mentors, as well as participating in UM's John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge in 2019.

The Charmed team includes four UM students and alumni: co-founder and CEO Taylor Margot (a forestry major), Kassi Strong (a psychology major with a business minor), Mary Fewer (accounting and management information systems) and Krister Kroll (master's in business administration).

"Techstars is a very exciting opportunity for Charmed," said Strong, a UM alumna and member of the Charmed team. "Not only are we able to grow as a team and focus on quick growth and development, but we are receiving mentorship and guidance from people who have found major success in the tech world."

Strong and Fewer are former and current members of the Blackstone LaunchPad student team, where they were introduced to Margot initially to assist with market research. Strong also has been a two-time competitor in UM's Ruffatto business challenge, the premier student entrepreneurship contest in Montana.

"The predominant feeling of going to Techstars is empowerment," said Margot, a Charmed co-founder and another UM graduate. "Charmed is still just an idea – a big idea, but an idea. Having a group like Techstars believe in our vision and believe that we are the team to institute a massive social shift in modern dating, is overwhelmingly empowering."

Gladen said Charmed also benefited significantly from the wider startup ecosystem at UM – most notably as a participant in the Early Stage Montana Hyper Accelerator in the summer of 2019.

"So much of how startups operate is unconventional by traditional business metrics," said Kroll, a member of the Charmed team and current UM student. "You have to be fast and agile. Techstars has the resources and connections to help us be faster and more efficient than we could ever be on our own. Over the next three months, we will drive to build elegant software, understand users and fire up our growth engine. By opening dating apps to our support networks, we are reimagining online dating."

Morgan Slemberger is assistant director of Blackstone LaunchPad and directs its Pursue Your Passions program, which works to empower female entrepreneurship. She said both Fewer and Strong participated in the program, and Strong also helped run PYP in 2018-19.

"It's tremendous to see two talented and motivated women thriving in a high-tech, high-potential startup team,"

Slemberger said.

While Charmed is at the beginning of its startup journey, Missoula and Montana already have witnessed the job-creating potential of successful Techstars Accelerator ventures. ClassPass, which participated in Techstars New York Accelerator program, opened an office in Missoula in early 2018 and now employs in excess of 200 employees in the city.

“It is no surprise to us that the third Blackstone LaunchPad team to be accepted into a Techstars Accelerator comes from (UM),” said Erica Lock, vice president of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation. “Paul Gladen and his team have done an exceptional job supporting student entrepreneurs and providing them the skills, connections and opportunities they need to launch a successful startup. We saw that impact ourselves firsthand this past fall when the Charmed team came to our annual LaunchPad Propel event in New York, and we can’t wait to see what they do next.”

###

**Contact:** Paul Gladen, director, Blackstone LaunchPad, 406-396-3534, [paul.gladen@umontana.edu](mailto:paul.gladen@umontana.edu).



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## UM News

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# UM Partners With Montana Colleges For Online Social Work Program

January 27, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Applications will open Feb. 1 for the University of Montana's School of Social Work's 2+2 Bachelor of Social Work Distance Program, which has continually expanded since launching in 2013 and now accepts new students every year.

The 2+2 BSW Program began with a partnership with Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell. It has since grown to include seven



other sites in rural and tribal communities.

“Demand continues to rise for the experience to be a part of such a unique program,” said Paige Furniss, the program’s coordinator at UM. “It provides great opportunities to people in rural and tribal communities to complete their education without leaving their own communities.”

Partner colleges include Flathead Valley Community College, Blackfeet Community College, Helena College, Miles Community College, Montana Tech Highlands in Butte, Chief Dull Knife College, Fort Peck Community College, Aaniiih Nakoda College and Stone Child College.

Furniss said the program initially was set up to accept students in the fall of every odd year. Yearly cohorts start this year, helping the school meet the demand of students who are looking to get into the field of social work.

“This will provide flexibility for those who prefer part-time options, and contribute to providing a much-needed professional workforce in underserved areas,” she said.

While most of learning is online through distance teaching, the 2+2 BSW program includes blended learning, with faculty travel and teaching, student exchanges and travel to the UM campus. These opportunities are invaluable for bonding the classes and exposing students to communities across Montana, as well the Missoula campus.

Students are required to complete a 450-hour practicum at a local agency. Practicum placements benefit students, agencies and the communities they serve. Agencies that previously have not had social workers are now actively recruiting for practicum students and working on pathways to sustainability for permanent positions.

2+2 BSW students also are able to complete their licensed addiction counselor curriculum and take part in the nationwide Area Health Education Centers scholars program. Students also may qualify for support from [Title IV-E Stipend Program](#). More information about that program is online at <http://bit.ly/37wT05d>.

The current cohort consists of 27 students, and the program plans to accept 25 students in the fall. For more

information visit the [Distance Learning](http://bit.ly/30QTj8x) page (<http://bit.ly/30QTj8x>) or email [paige.furniss@mso.umt.edu](mailto:paige.furniss@mso.umt.edu). Read a story about 2+2 program student Cody Magpie at <http://bit.ly/38KbAaq>.

###

**Contact:** Paige Furniss, 2+2 program coordinator, UM School of Social Work, 406-243-5554, [paige.furniss@mso.umt.edu](mailto:paige.furniss@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM News

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## Astronomy Program at UM Recognized for Great Value

January 27, 2020



**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana recently was named one of the Top 25 Most Affordable Bachelor’s in



## Astronomy for 2020 by [Great Value Colleges](#).

Great Value Colleges ranks programs by tuition, flexibility, customization within the degree program and an overall “wow” factor highlighting unique offerings and setting it apart from others.

UM’s astronomy program placed 18th for its affordability, outstanding reputation, faculty excellence and commitment to providing students with a high-quality education. Options include a bachelor’s degree in physics with a concentration in astronomy, which requires 69 degree-specific credits, and a minor in astronomy, which requires 25 to 26 program-specific credits.

“We’re happy to be recognized on this list for value and quality,” said Professor Andrew Ware, the UM Department of Physics and Astronomy chair. “UM offers a great education in astronomy at a reasonable rate in a fantastic mountain setting. We are proud of what our students, faculty and staff have accomplished.”

UM physics and astronomy faculty research space physics and observational astronomy, participate in NASA projects and more. They also are involved in the MINERVA collaboration with Harvard, Penn State, the University of Southern Queensland and UPenn to detect exoplanets around nearby stars.

The majority of students who receive a B.A. in Physics with a Concentration in Astronomy from UM go on to graduate school, including recent graduates such as Morgan Henderson ’17, a Ph.D. student in aerospace engineering sciences at CU-Boulder, Chani Nava ’15, a Ph.D. student in astrophysics at Harvard and Connor Robinson ’14, a Ph.D. student in astronomy at Boston University. Other alumni include Wendell Truax ’18, a consultant at Pomerol Partners; Russell Stanbery ’16, an electrical engineering technician at Markforged Inc.; Ron Powell ’10, a developer advocate and content producer for CircleCI; and Laura Zschaechner ’07, a fellow at the Finnish Center for Astronomy.

UM’s astronomy program also includes an on-campus Star Gazing Room and the University-operated Blue Mountain Observatory 45 minutes from campus. Visit the [UM Physics and Astronomy page](#) for more info.

UM earned high rankings on other [Great Value Colleges](#) lists, including top colleges with free speech zones, best bike friendly towns and affordable master’s degrees in anthropology and philosophy.

###

**Contact:** Andrew Ware, professor and chair, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-6221, [andrew.ware@umontana.edu](mailto:andrew.ware@umontana.edu).

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# New UM Scholarship to Keep Adventurous Alum's Legacy Alive

January 24, 2020

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana incoming students now will have the opportunity to receive financial support to experience the wilderness the same way Bryson Allen did before his freshman year in 2014.

Allen would have turned 24 on Jan. 25, but he died in a climbing accident on the Mendenhall Towers in Juneau, Alaska, last June. Now his family, friends and the Outdoor Program at UM have established the Bryson Allen Wilderness Experience Fund in his honor that will cover the cost of the Freshman Wilderness Experience for qualifying freshmen with financial need.



“Creating a scholarship fund to enable incoming students with financial need to participate in the Freshman Wilderness Experience is the best way I can imagine to honor Bryson,” said Bryson’s dad, Demi Allen. “This fund will carry on Bryson’s legacy by helping new students experience the beauty and peace of wild places.”

Allen loved the outdoors since he was a young boy. As an incoming student from Bainbridge Island, Washington, Allen was part of the Outdoor Program’s inaugural Freshman Wilderness Experience, which introduces students to the stunning natural surroundings in western Montana over four days and three nights in the backcountry. Allen took a climbing class, and eventually became an instructor, a wilderness leader and mentor.

His colleagues and friends remember him as a reliable friend and teacher, a courageous and careful climber, and a kind and humble young man. Allen earned a wildlife biology degree at UM in 2018, graduating with University Scholar distinction from the Davidson Honors College.

The Bryson Allen Wilderness Experience Fund is nearly halfway to its \$29,000 goal. If the fundraising goal is reached, the fund will be endowed, meaning it will become a perpetual fund from which awards will be given. If the goal is not reached, it will make awards until the fund’s resources are exhausted. To donate or for more information on the fund, visit <http://bit.ly/2upHSbK>.





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**Contact:** Elizabeth Fricke, senior assistant director, UM Outdoor Program, 406-243-5176, [elizabeth.fricke@mso.umt.edu](mailto:elizabeth.fricke@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Dance Program to Present Benefit Concert

January 24, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Student performances featuring original dance choreography will be held Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, at the University of Montana. These new dances will directly benefit UM students.

The American College Dance Association Benefit Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. both



nights in the  
Performing Arts and  
Radio/Television  
Center's Open Space

Theatre. Tickets will be available at the door, with a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10.

"And more would be gratefully accepted," said Heidi Jones Eggert, a UM associate professor of dance and producer of the concert. "We will offer a compilation of original dances ranging in genres from dance theatre and contemporary modern dance to hip hop – all choreographed by students and faculty."

The benefit concert features choreographers' work slated to be performed at this year's Northwest Regional Conference of the American College Dance Association, scheduled for March at Gonzaga University. That event will be adjudicated by nationally and internationally renowned dance artists and critics.

"The benefit concert helps to raise critical funds for UM dance students to attend this conference," Eggert said. "It also showcases fresh danceworks before they represent UM in Spokane, Washington."

Highlights of this year's concert include:

- Graduate student and Master of Fine Arts candidate, Elijah Fisher will present his most recent work, "TIRED [T1RED]." Fisher's piece largely is inspired by the state of exhaustion that he exists in as a Black and Filipino person in predominately white spaces. Fisher explores his complex relationship with the multiple identities of a neutral mask.
- Visiting Professor Brooklyn Draper's work "Void" features twelve dancers. "Void" is an investigation of the indefinite, and Draper is interested in how the discomfort of the unknown is physicalized and how our need for control can consciously or unconsciously impact those we share space with.
- Sophomore dance major and Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate Shenoah Curley Wildshoe will present her solo, "Unspoken Prayer Request." Her dance is an exploration of the kind of pain and hardship a person feels they must work through alone because they cannot articulate their need for help to anyone else.

"ACDA is an extraordinary opportunity and highlight for most UM dance students, and we hope the audiences turn



out to help them get there,” Eggert said.

For more information, call 406-529-5401 or email [heidi.eggert@umontana.edu](mailto:heidi.eggert@umontana.edu). A complete schedule of UM School of Theatre & Dance productions for the 2019-20 academic year is online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/default.php>.

###

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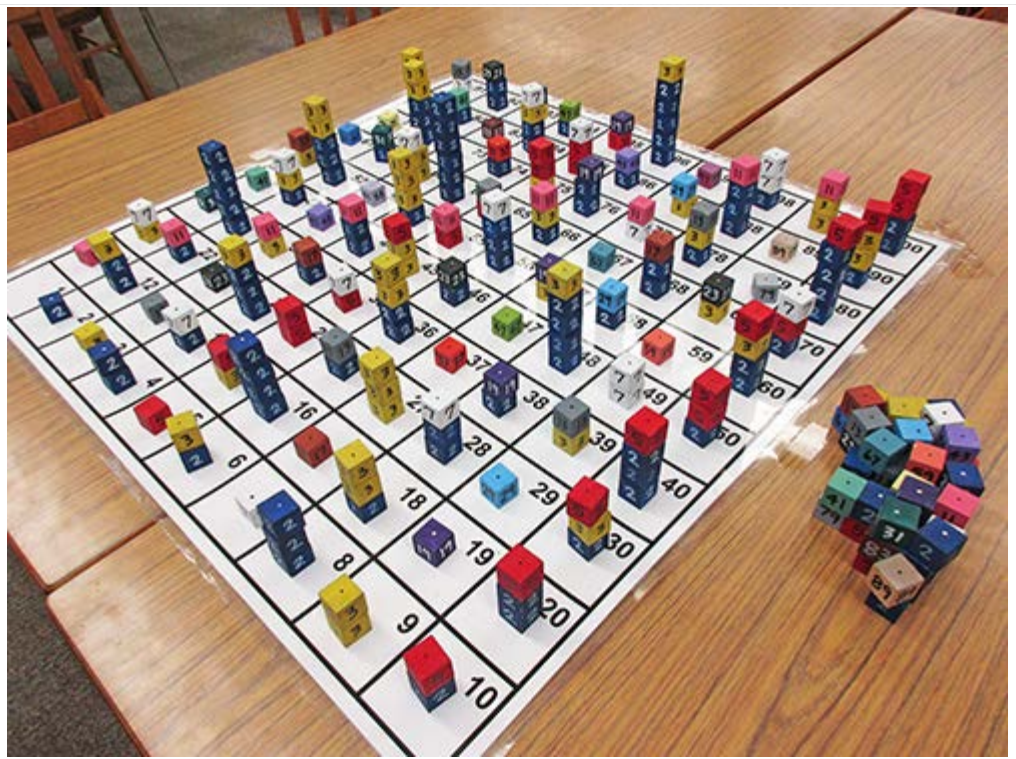
[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2020](#) / [January](#) / UM Math Professor Earns Prize for ‘City of Numbers’ Elementary Lesson

# UM Math Professor Earns Prize for ‘City of Numbers’ Elementary Lesson

January 23, 2020

**MISSOULA** – A University of Montana mathematics professor has discovered a way to make prime factorization fun for elementary school students – earning him a national Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching.

The name of his lesson is “City of Numbers,” and it involves building blocks and a grid system.



UM Mathematics Associate Professor Matt Roscoe created the lesson for fourth through eighth grade students. The project helps students understand multiplicative structures of whole numbers and their prime factorizations in a visual way.

“Students collectively build the prime factorizations of each whole number 1-100 as a tower of blocks, each block representing a prime,” he said. “These towers are then placed on a 10-by-10 grid numbered from 1 to 100. The lesson ends with students discovering and communicating patterns they find in the representation.”

Many students first learn about prime numbers in fourth grade. Stacking up blocks on a gridded system allows them to visualize a number’s multiplicative structure at an age when they do not yet understand exponents.



“I hope that my contributions to the field will be characterized by moving mathematics instruction toward a future where students experience mathematics as a venue for the expression of creativity, exploration and discovery,” Roscoe said.

Roscoe has brought his “City of Numbers” lesson to different elementary school classrooms and said students are always excited about using the building blocks. Teachers have built at least five sets in Montana and one in California.

"It's exciting for me too," Roscoe said. "Students often see patterns that I have never considered. For example, one student found that all sevens move like 'a knight on the chess board.' That's a pretty cool observation but even more interesting is the question that follows: 'I wonder why?'"

Roscoe said he has always been passionate about teaching mathematics and thinking about patterns.

[The Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching](#) promotes hands-on math teaching in upper elementary school classrooms. Roscoe won \$15,000 with the prize.

Roscoe joins the [University of Saskatchewan's Nat Banting](#) – the first Canadian to earn the prize – in earning recognition for his math teaching methods. Both received awards at the Museum of Mathematics in New York City Jan. 7.

###

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## UM News

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# UM Journalism Student Wins National Recognition for Montana Ranch Documentary

January 22, 2020

**MISSOULA** – A University of Montana journalism student received first place in the Hearst Journalism Awards – one of the most prestigious honors for college-level journalism – for his look into Montana ranching.

Jiakai Lou will receive a \$3,000 scholarship as the first-place winner in the Multimedia 1/Narrative Video Storytelling

Competition for his piece “32 Below,” which he created for UM’s Montana Kaimin student newspaper.

Chosen from among 88 entries from 54 schools, he qualifies to enter the National Multimedia Championship held in Houston in June.



“32 Below” takes an intimate look into the hard work, dedication and passion of one ranching family as they tend their cows and calves during last year’s frigid winter in Helmville, Montana.

Lou, who goes by JK, is an international student from China. He said he came to Montana for the outdoor activities and American western lifestyle. At first, he didn’t know what to study at UM, but soon rediscovered his love for documentaries.

“I gradually found my passion for visual storytelling when I was a sophomore,” he said. “Then I heard [the School of Journalism](#) at UM is one of the best in the country. I decided to dive in.”

Lou began his mini-doc as a project for a distinguished Pollner Professor class last spring, which focused on intimacy and in-depth, long-form journalism. The class took place during a historically cold winter.

“I was wondering what ranchers were doing in that cold weather,” Lou said. “I heard from an old friend that ranchers in Montana were preparing for the upcoming calving season. It soon caught my attention and made me think of documenting it for my class project.”

Lou eventually connected with members of a ranching family who wanted to share their story – the Bignells – and he filmed the hardships and joys of calving from February to the end of April. The experience was eye-opening to him, and his truck got stuck in snow a few times on his way out to the Helmville ranch.

“Where the ranch is located is vast and secluded, and there was no cell service,” he said. “For me, that’s a place in the middle of nowhere – a place that brought me into a completely new experience. Documenting life on that ranch educated me on how hard it is in the cold weather and how tenacious the Montana ranchers are. Most surprisingly, I

learned how to calve.”

Lou’s professors encouraged him to shorten, edit and finish the documentary last fall, as well as enter it into the national Hearst Competition and the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.



“Jiakai is an incredibly hardworking, dedicated and passionate student with incredible talent with cinematography, editing and video storytelling,” said Jeremy Lurgio, a UM photojournalism and multimedia associate professor. “He has spent many hours in and out of class honing his craft, and this project is the culmination of all his hard work. The story is intimate and genuine, and it is beautifully shot.”

The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival recently announced it selected “32 Below” to premiere on Sunday, Feb. 23, at The Wilma. Watch the trailer on the [Montana Kaimin site](#).

The Journalism Awards Program, now in its 60th year, includes multimedia, writing, radio, television and photojournalism competitions offering up to \$700,000 in scholarships, matching grants and stipends. Universities of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication with accredited undergraduate journalism programs – 104 member schools – are eligible to participate in the Hearst competitions.

Lou’s award follows another top 5 winner in the Hearst Competition from the UM School of Journalism. [Sara](#)

[Diggins](#) finished second in the competition’s News and Feature photography category in December.

For more information on the awards, visit <http://www.hearstawards.org/>.

###

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## UM News

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# UM's Mansfield Library Eliminates Fines

January 21, 2020

### MISSOULA –

Stressing about that overdue book? Don't worry: The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library at the University of Montana has eliminated most overdue library fines.

Beginning this semester, UM students and employees will no longer be charged overdue fines on most books and media. In addition, general item



checkout for  
undergraduate

students has been lengthened from three weeks to four months, matching the loan period for graduate students.

“The fees created a potential barrier for students,” said Megan Stark, UM undergraduate services librarian. “We know that access to library resources is critical to student success, so in the interest of increasing their success, we committed to eliminating this barrier.”

Based on student requests, the library recently engaged in an analysis and discussion of library fines. The 2019 American Library Association’s “Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequality” was used as a guide. The resolution included the following language, which resonated with UM library personnel committed to student success and retention:

- Fines present an economic barrier to access of library materials and services.
- Mounting evidence indicates that eliminating fines increases library card adoption and library usage.
- Fines create a barrier in public relations and absorb valuable staff time applying, collecting and managing dues.

“At this point in time, it is not a radical idea to eliminate library overdue fines on most items checked out,” said Barry Brown, UM’s interim library dean. “We’re confident that the goodwill generated and the positive impact on student success will outweigh any decline in revenue.”

Library users can renew general items online anytime by logging into their [My Library Account](https://www.lib.umt.edu/services/library-accounts.php) at <https://www.lib.umt.edu/services/library-accounts.php>.

Stark cautioned that some specialized items such as course reserve materials or laptop computers will continue to generate overdue fines.

Learn more about library services at <https://www.lib.umt.edu/>.

###

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## UM News

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# UM Student Attends UN Climate Change Summit

January 16, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Last month, University of Montana master's student Lily Clarke attended the UN Climate Change Summit in Madrid (COP25) as one of 12 student delegates representing the International Forestry Students Association, a coalition of 136 student groups in 79 countries invested in





global conservation initiatives.

The UN climate change conferences are among the largest international meetings in the world and are the foremost global forums for multilateral discussion of climate change matters. It gathered some of the world's top governing bodies, climate change experts and media members.

Clarke is a master's candidate studying systems ecology in UM's Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Lab of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation.

Originally from Montana's Swan Valley, her research focuses on how human communities in the Western United States retain and cultivate resilience to wildfire. Clarke holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Lewis & Clark College, where she conducted wildfire ecology research for the Wilderness Society, the Smithsonian Institute and Harvard Forest. She has worked as a guest scientist at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany and was awarded a Fulbright Research Scholarship in Nepal.

As a delegate at COP25, Clarke connected with U.S. State Department representatives, UN officials and other young people from around the globe. Clarke was able to ask diplomatic officials challenging questions about their country's role and capacity in combatting climate change, while also engaging in conversations about integrating social and ecological disciplines with other student representatives.

COP25 presented examples of how climate change science is and isn't translated into policy, Clarke said. Although only diplomats are allowed to partake in official negotiations, presentations she attended made it clear how invested each country was in committing to a sustainable future.

"I was both surprised and motivated by the challenging questions young people asked to diplomats at COP25," she said. "It was the young people holding bureaucrats accountable for their actions and words. For example, if a bureaucrat claimed that they were committed to 'sustainable natural resource extraction' or 'stakeholder engagement,' it was the young people who asked the bureaucrats what exactly they meant by that.

"I found the relationships made at COP25 and some of the outcomes, such as the European Green New Deal, to be very inspiring. The final negotiations were disheartening but unfortunately not surprising seeing the lack of commitment to climate change initiatives by the world's superpowers, including the United States."

She would like to thank the UM Foundation, the UM Graduate School, the UM forestry college, the UM Climate Studies Program, the Mansfield Center, the UM Office of the Provost, the Associated Students of UM and family and friends for helping her attend COP25.

###

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## UM News

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# UM Professor to Lead International Geoscience Research Consortium

January 15, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Rebecca Bendick, a University of Montana geosciences professor, has been selected to lead UNAVCO, a nonprofit, academic consortium that supports geophysics research and workforce development around the globe.

Established in 1984 to advance scientific



research with GPS technology, the consortium now has 100 U.S. member

institutions and 80 international partners. UNAVCO's core facility is in Boulder, Colorado, and includes 72 full-time employees operating over 2,000 advanced scientific instruments with an annual budget of \$15 million.

The organization's primary sponsors are the National Science Foundation and NASA. Major activities include operating and managing instrumentation for research, developing and testing new instrumentation, data handling and archiving, workforce development, education and outreach, and development of applied products that support navigation, surveying, natural hazard mitigation, disaster warning and disaster response.

"I am honored to be selected to lead UNAVCO as president," said Bendick, an internationally recognized expert on plate tectonics, topography and earthquakes. "The organization played a huge role in my own research career, and I think it is an amazing example of how people working together and sharing resources can enable transformative discoveries.

"For example, some of the things that we've learned with UNAVCO support include the details of tectonic motions of North America, the existence of subtle ways that faults move to dissipate some of their stored energy without major earthquakes – called episodic tremor and slip – and how the Earth deforms in response to the weight of storms and snowpack. There are dozens of other discoveries that have revolutionized our understanding of the Earth that came about with the help of UNAVCO people and equipment."

Bendick's leadership role with the consortium will last up to four years, and her affiliation with UM will continue.

"This is a great step forward for UNAVCO and Professor Bendick, and we look forward to seeing how the organization will thrive and change under her leadership," UM Provost Jon Harbor said.

Bendick hopes to build upon the tremendous expertise and dedication of the staff and the supporting community to enable the next decades of discovery. This means adding technical capacity for interdisciplinary science and thinking creatively about how science can inform more resilient and sustainable human communities.

Among her goals is to support new technologies and techniques for early warning and response for natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis. Other initiatives include developing new data solutions for water management, precise positioning of autonomous vehicles and characterizing how the changing climate is changing Earth's surface.

"I'm excited to explore innovative collaborations between UNAVCO and the University of Montana, too," Bendick said. "UM's goals of thinking broadly about global problems at the intersection of science and society align closely to the vision of UNAVCO, so I'm sure there will be many opportunities to work together going forward."

For more information on Bendick, visit <http://hs.umt.edu/geosciences/faculty/bendick/>. For more on UNAVCO, visit <https://unavco.org>.

###

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# UM Alumna to Host Panel Discussion on Racial Equity in Montana, MLK Legacy

January 15, 2020

*Griz Chat with Meshayla Cox*

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – Meshayla Cox will return to her alma mater this week as the keynote speaker at the University of Montana’s “King’s Legacy Lives” event, held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16, at UM’s Davidson Honors College Lounge. Free and open to the public, the event is held to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration will include a panel discussion, followed by awards for students who shared recently how they employ the legacy of MLK in their lives.

Tobin Shearer, UM  
African-American  
Studies director and  
history professor, said  
the University’s MLK

celebration offers an opportunity to reflect on King's full legacy – beyond a call for volunteerism.

“King was an organizer, a prophet and change agent,” Shearer said. “He was not satisfied with the status quo. Rather than simply invite people to paint a fence or clean up a sidewalk, we decided to call for deeper reflection and the informed action for racial and social justice that comes from it.”



Shearer invited Cox as a keynote speaker because she “embodies Kings’ legacy in her life and commitments, and she is particularly well equipped to challenge us and call us to live out King's legacy.”

Cox graduated from UM in 2018 with a bachelor's degrees in African-American Studies and Spanish and is the former president of UM's Black Student Union. At UM, she also was a student columnist for the UM student-run newspaper, the Montanan Kaimin. She now works for the Montana Racial Equity Project based in Bozeman as the nonprofit's program, events and outreach coordinator.

Cox shared with UM News about her passion for dismantling systems of oppression through community dialogue, how her UM education helped prepare her for social justice work and why the activism of Martin Luther King Jr. endures in modern times.

**UM News: You're back at UM this week to share your personal vision about what the legacy and life of MLK means to you. What about his life and activism inspires you today?**

**Cox:** Dr. King's model for radical racial and social justice and his activism has largely influenced my life and my work. Dr. King not only championed racial justice but affordable housing, worker's rights, living wages, education equity, criminal justice reform and many others. His multipronged approach to social justice included folks of all different backgrounds. I follow this model in all of my activism and organizing because we are not free until all of us are free. The success of social justice movements is not just dependent on the rights I obtain for myself, but rather for those who are most vulnerable in our communities.

**UM News: Your work with the Montana Racial Equity Project is largely centered on cultural dialogue and community building. What does success look like in this field of work?**



**Cox:** I believe it can be hard to measure success in social justice or racial justice work because the end goal of eradicating racism, bigotry and prejudice will not be seen in my lifetime or that of my children, great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren. However, the times when I feel we have achieved great success have come in the form of personal testimonials about the impact of our work from personal awakenings to the reality of racism, to making measured progress in seeking structural changes within organizations. The best measure of success in racial justice is exemplified through the societal uplift of black, indigenous and people of color.

**UM News:** How did your experience as UM student and training in the liberal arts prepare you for such a high-profile, often deeply personal and sensitive work?

**Cox:** My experience though the African-American Studies program helped me gain confidence in myself and my place in history. I credit much of my ability to do this work to my college professor, Dr. Tobin Miller-Shearer and BSU advisor, Murray Pierce. With their guidance and advice, I really found my voice as a black woman. I also find my strength through community. I have an amazing cohort of friends of color and allies, many of whom I met at UM, who guide me through all of life's struggles. This work is deeply personal, but I am not alone in my experiences and I am reminded of that every day I connect with loved ones and others fighting for social justice.

**UM News:** The U.S. continues to see acts and voices of racism. How might your generation be equipped and emboldened to advocate for racial equity?

**Cox:** Well, we have hundreds of years of anti-racist movements and people like Dr. King to model our activism after. I also think social media serves as a strong platform for racial justice. #BlackLivesMatter sprung up through a social media hashtag and is now a worldwide movement for racial equity. Dr. King once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere... whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." I feel that we truly take this to heart, we lead through empathy and understanding and see value in elevating voices of the oppressed around the world. I think our ability to reach out and connect with all kinds of people shows the determination in our generation to make our voices heard and connect with people around the country.

**UM News:** What advice might you give to fellow UM students who are interested in seeking employment in community building and social justice work?

**Cox:** Connect, connect, connect! Community is everything in this work. Seek out opportunities and relationships that bring you closer to racial justice advocacy. And always advocate for your own worth. People deserve a living wage, full employment and to work in an environment that fuels and protects you.

###

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## UM News

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# New Research Finds Ranchers Consider Diverse Factors in Managing Their Land

January 14, 2020

UM News Service  
with Virginia Tech

**MISSOULA** – In a new study published in *Rangeland Ecology and Management*, researchers explore the diverse factors that influence how ranchers manage their land. Missoula-based collaborators on the project include University of Montana



Assistant Professor  
Alex Metcalf and the  
Intermountain West

Joint Venture, a Missoula organization committed to bird habitat conservation by fostering public-private partnerships.

Wetlands in the Intermountain West, a region nestled between the Rocky Mountains, the Cascade Range and the Sierra Nevada, are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna. Wetlands may only make up 2% of the region, but 80% of wildlife rely on the rich habitat wetlands provide.

The majority of these wetlands are located on private ranchlands. While the persistence of these “working wetlands” depends on the management decisions of ranchers, their perspectives are often missing from conservation and policymaking discussions.

The Montana researchers partnered with Ashley Dayer, an assistant professor at Virginia Tech, and her graduate student, Mary Sketch. The research team hosted two landowner-listening workshops – one in southern Oregon and another in southwestern Wyoming – and invited various landowners and conservation professionals to encourage dialogue between the two parties. Partners for Conservation, a landowner-led conservation organization, played a key role in successful implementation of the workshops.

Metcalf said they evaluated the complex decision-making process of how ranchers choose to manage their land – specifically how they choose to irrigate their land and why. They found that various factors go into deciding how land is managed, and it’s not just money.

“Our project was able to add nuance to that understanding. There is a lot more to it,” said Metcalf, a social scientist and assistant professor in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation at UM. “Yes, ranchers have to meet the bottom line because they have to make sure they have food on the table, but other concerns and considerations are at play in the choices they make for their lands.”

The study “Western Ranchers’ Perspectives on Enablers and Constraints to Flood Irrigation” was published Jan. 14 in *Rangeland Ecology and Management* and can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rama.2019.12.003>.

"In order to have effective conservation in the West, where ranchers own huge tracts of land, the conservation community is keen to work together with them," said Dayer. "Ranchers can make choices to manage their land for the benefits of wildlife or they can make choices that don't prioritize wildlife. We aimed to facilitate a better understanding of how conservation professionals could work with ranchers toward conservation and wildlife management goals."

The Intermountain West Joint Venture has a long history of working alongside landowners and conservationists and has become trusted in the region. Their connections, experiences and on-the-ground work proved valuable in executing the research. As a result, co-authors were better able to understand ranchers' experiences and perspectives. The joint venture also now is playing a critical role in ensuring the results of this study are used.

"This research is groundbreaking in that it helps conservation professionals understand the social context of agricultural irrigation decision-making in the West," said Dave Smith, Intermountain West Joint Venture coordinator. "The findings will enable the conservation community to increasingly support agricultural irrigators in continuing to provide vital habitat for wetland-dependent birds on working lands."

The relationships between conservationists and ranchers can be complicated. People are quick to assume that ranchers are solely concerned with profit, but this research found that ranchers' decisions are much more complex. This needs to be taken into consideration when developing programs and policies to foster private lands conservation.

"The workshops created an open, trusting space where there was social learning and social exchange happening," said Sketch, the lead author on the paper. "It was important for ranchers to know the researchers and the conservation professionals alike were there to hear them."

This study specifically focused on choices about flood irrigation, a traditional method involving complex reservoir and ditch systems that spread water across a field, recharging areas once sustained by natural flooding. When the water flows from the ditches, saturates the field and seeps into the groundwater, it provides forage for cattle while also providing rich habitat for migrating and breeding waterbirds, like ducks and cranes, as well as sage grouse, an iconic ground-dwelling bird in decline.

"Flood irrigation is often vilified for not being water efficient," Sketch said. "The numbers don't always add up when it comes to saving water because there's so much more in the game of land management and conservation, like creating wildlife habitat. This traditional definition of efficiency doesn't grasp that social-ecological complexity.

"Our work suggests an expanded definition that considers how flood irrigation provides bird habitat on working wet meadows, recharges the groundwater for communities downstream, creates in-stream flow for fish and keeps ranchers ranching."

Ranchers described factors that either help or hinder the use of flood irrigation on private lands. The study identified cultural considerations as a key enabler for continuing flood irrigation.

"Ranchers have strong ties with the ranching lifestyle, so many choose to continue flood irrigation because of its history and their personal connection to it," Sketch said. "It's something they do every year, the generation of

ranchers before them did it, and they want to maintain that tradition.”

“What stands out to me in this work is that there are a group of ranchers committed to the future of their land,” Dayer said. “They rely on that land for their livelihood. They’re closely tied to it; they spend every day outside. It’s something that they’re very passionate about. I think that’s just a critical thing for the majority of the U.S. public living far from ranches to keep in mind – our food isn’t just coming from grocery stores. It’s coming from people who are making choices about how land is used and whether to contribute to conservation.”

Despite the commitment of ranchers to their land, nearly half of all U.S. ranches are sold every decade, and recruitment of younger generations into the ranching lifestyle has declined. Most of these once-open spaces have been lost to subdivisions and other development. Land conversion not only erodes the sense of community and cultural identity among ranchers, it also eliminates important wildlife habitat.

To keep ranches both environmentally and economically sustainable, both workshops highlighted key areas where conservation professionals can increase rancher engagement and ensure working wetlands continue to benefit both landowners and wildlife. Ranchers identified partnerships and open communications with conservation professionals and policymakers as critical to maintaining successful operations in addition to effective, long-lasting conservation practices.

Central to strong partnerships is building trust and “honest people sitting around, getting over their biases, their agendas and listening to one another,” said one rancher.

Listening turned out to be an effective conservation tool, and the research team hopes this work inspires closer collaboration between conservation professionals and ranchers across the West.

###

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## UM News

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# UM Environmental Studies Grad Brings Indigenous Plant Knowledge to Community

January 13, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Rose Bear Don't Walk is returning to her roots – and bringing some traditional knowledge back with her.

As the recipient of a prominent Fellowship of the Future from the organization 500 Women Scientists, she will teach her Salish community at St. Ignatius how to reclaim a diet revolving around native plants.



Bear Don't Walk, who just graduated with her master's degree in environmental studies from the University of Montana in December, first learned about food systems – and barriers to accessing healthy, nutritious and culturally relevant food for Indigenous communities – as an undergraduate political science major at Yale. She then enrolled at Syracuse University in New York for a graduate degree.

In a program in the SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry School, Indigenous students work in biocultural restoration and traditional ecological knowledge. But Bear Don't Walk only attended for a semester.

"It was there that I learned I really wanted to work with traditional food and plants," she said.

She instead transferred to UM to study the plants around the region she grew up in and began a thesis project titled "Recovering our Roots: Salish ethnobotanical knowledge for community wellbeing on the Flathead Indian Reservation."

"I really, really loved the UM Environmental Studies program," she said. "It was an awesome program for what I wanted to study."

Bear Don't Walk said when Indigenous peoples were assimilated into Western culture, they lost more than their traditions. They moved from an ancestral diet to a highly processed, globalized food system. Grocery stores and fast food restaurants on reservations led to an overabundance of foods Indigenous people weren't used to and an



underabundance of the foods they had relied upon for centuries.

The result was health depletion for the tribes, shown by low biomarkers for overall health and high levels of chronic health

problems. Bear Don't Walk said she has seen obesity, diabetes and hypertension up close in her own Salish community.

Now she wants to educate her community on how historical events affected their food systems and how to regain regional practices to keep traditions alive and improve health and wellness.

Bear Don't Walk said some plants used traditionally for food sources are still well-known, such as camas, bitterroots and berries, but others have been lost.

She said although Indigenous knowledge is scientific, it is not always highly quantitative, so she wants to create a space to incorporate it into academia. Through her two-year fellowship, she plans to hold monthly ethnobotanical workshops and create educational materials for the first year and then incorporate what she has learned through the project in the second year.

Coming from a family of lawyers, Bear Don't Walk never thought she would go down a scientific route – let alone be chosen among 100 applications as one of four finalists for a Fellowship for the Future. As an awardee, she will receive support for her project, an honorarium, mentorship opportunities, leadership training and recognition in the STEM



community.

She said coming back to UM and to her community roots was the right choice for allowing her to work on her project.

“I think the University provides an environment to hone in on a specific thing you really want to work on, and there are a lot of people within the University system that are supportive,” she said. “The classes I took were centered on the botany of this region, and so just having that specificity within my coursework, a really supportive community and a great adviser and department, helped me flourish and figure out how to carry out this project.”

Bear Don't Walk hopes eventually interest in her workshops will spread to wider communities and her “Recovering our Roots” project will be used in Flathead Indian Reservation schools.

###

**Contact:** Rose Bear Don't Walk, UM Environmental Studies alum, 406-529-8002, [rose.beardontwalk@umontana.edu](mailto:rose.beardontwalk@umontana.edu).



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## UM News

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# 2020 Economic Outlook Seminar to Visit 10 Montana Cities

January 10, 2020

**MISSOULA** – The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will begin its 45th annual Economic Outlook Seminar series in Helena on Tuesday, Jan. 28, Great Falls on Wednesday, Jan. 29, and Missoula on Friday, Jan. 31.

This half-day seminar highlights the latest economic trends for local economies and the state of Montana.

“It’s time to take a step back and think about where economic growth is heading across the state,” said BBER Director Patrick Barkey.

Every year, industry experts give their outlooks for Montana’s important sectors, including health care, forestry, travel and tourism, real estate, manufacturing and agriculture. This year, the seminar also will include the outlook for high-tech and start-up industries.

The theme of the 2020 seminar tour is “Finding Good Workers: New Challenges, New Solutions.”

After more than a decade of economic growth that has featured strong hiring and steadily falling unemployment rates, many Montana businesses are struggling to find a supply of suitable workers for their job openings, Barkey said. Some businesses even are questioning how they can continue to fill orders, let alone capitalize on new opportunities.

“As economic problems go, this may be a good one to have – too many jobs,” said Barkey. “But finding solutions to Montana’s workforce shortages will require creative thinking. While boosting worker salaries may address some of the workforce issues, it won’t solve the problem.”

Registration costs \$90. For Montana University System faculty, staff and students, registration is \$25. Attendees will receive a copy of the 2020 Montana Economic Report, a book of the PowerPoint presentations, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER’s award-winning magazine. Continuing education credits are available, and groups of five or more can receive a discount.

The seminars will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in 10 Montana cities and towns. The full schedule is:

- Tuesday, Jan. 28, Great Northern Hotel, **Helena**
- Wednesday, Jan. 29, Hilton Garden Inn, **Great Falls**
- Friday, Jan. 31, Hilton Garden Inn, **Missoula**
- Tuesday, Feb. 4, Northern Hotel, **Billings**
- Wednesday, Feb. 5, The Commons, **Bozeman** (includes live webcast)
- Thursday, Feb. 6, NorthWestern Energy General Office, **Butte**
- Tuesday, Feb. 11, Hilton Garden Inn, **Kalispell**
- Tuesday, March 17, MSU Northern, **Havre**
- Wednesday, March 18, Central Montana Education Center, **Lewistown**
- Thursday, March 19, Lone Peak Cinema, **Big Sky**

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.economicoutlookseminar.com> or call 406-243-5113.

Established in 1948, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research is the main research unit of the University of Montana’s College of Business. BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research. For more information visit <http://bber.umt.edu> or call 406-243-5113.

###

**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, [patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu](mailto:patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu); Shannon Furniss, interim BBER marketing director, 406-360-7846, [shannon.furniss@mso.umt.edu](mailto:shannon.furniss@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Student Puts Songbird Research Methods to the Test

January 10, 2020

Kasey Rahn  
UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana's Avian Science Center collects, synthesizes and communicates knowledge about birds and their ecosystems for the conservation of natural resources. This mission often translates to analyzing the approaches used



to collect information about birds, improving the scientific data that are the backbone of conservation management decisions.



In a new study, Avian Science Center doctoral student Kaitlyn Reintsma tested a relatively unknown nest density estimator for songbirds using Brewer's sparrow nesting data, and she determined it is just as accurate as traditional methods. Her co-authors include Victoria Dreitz, the UM Avian Science Center director, and former Avian Science Center researcher Alan Harrington, currently a graduate student at Oregon State University.

"This study provides evidence that the nest density estimator developed by Guillaume Péron and his collaborators in a 2014 study is a potentially useful tool for a wider range of taxa than solely the species it was created for," Reintsma said. "Use of this model could improve insight into vital measurements important for wildlife conservation."

Reintsma is a doctoral student studying fish and wildlife biology in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation at UM. She originally began the study as part of her undergraduate research required by the Davidson Honors College, as well as the honors option of UM's Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology. This blossomed into publication-worthy research under the guidance of Dreitz, her undergraduate research adviser and now-Ph.D. adviser.

Birds are sensitive to environmental changes, so they're frequently used to understand human impacts on the environment and establish ecosystem-level conservation policies, Reintsma and her co-authors say. As humans increasingly put pressure on the natural world, it becomes important to understand what demographic factors drive changes in wildlife population sizes. For birds, that often comes down to breeding productivity – how many baby birds are successfully launched into the world.

Breeding productivity is most often inferred exclusively from nest success rates, or the proportion of nests with at

least one offspring fledging successfully. But clutch size and nest density – how many nests there are in a given area – also play important roles.

The easiest way for scientists to calculate nest density would be to find all of the nests in a given area and divide by the size of the area, but finding all of the nests is easier said than done. It's often not feasible to locate every nest in a given area because the nests are not always easily detected on the day the area is surveyed, and even if they are, they are likely to be missed by scientists during nest searching. For example, nests could already have failed or fledged before the day scientists collect data, or researchers might not detect an active nest concealed by tall grass.

Distance sampling is the most widely accepted sampling method used to account for imperfect detection in nest density estimation. Distance sampling models usually require observers to record nests from a pre-determined transect line and then estimate detection probability based on the distance from the observer to the nest. They cannot include data from nests found in any other way than a structured survey or account for nests unavailable for detection at the time of the survey.

Péron and his co-authors developed an alternative method in 2014, published in *Ecology* (<http://bit.ly/37Oiivr>). Unlike standard distance sampling methods, the time-to-event nest density estimator mathematically accounts for nest availability and is more flexible in the data that can be included. The validation of this new method was limited to its original study species, the blue-winged teal.

Reintsma and her co-authors evaluated the general applicability of the time-to-event estimator in the Passeriformes order, which includes songbirds and more than half of all bird species. They compared estimates of nest detection rates and nest density from the time-to-event estimator to distance sampling methods for 42 Brewer's sparrow nests monitored in 2015. They found the time-to-event estimator produced similar but more precise density estimates than distance sampling methods.

"Wildlife biologists are always striving to identify and validate efficient new tools to understand and protect wildlife populations," Reintsma said. "This study is just one example of that sentiment."

The study, "Validation of a novel time-to-event nest density estimator on passerines: An example using Brewer's sparrows (*Spizella breweri*)" was published in the journal *PLOS ONE* in December. The article is online at <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0227092>.

###

**Contact:** Kaitlyn Reintsma, UM fish and wildlife biology doctoral student, 406-243-5476, [kaitlyn.reintsma@umontana.edu](mailto:kaitlyn.reintsma@umontana.edu).

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# UM Students Make Dean's List, President's 4.0 List

January 10, 2020

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – At the University of Montana, 2,429 students made the fall semester 2019 Dean's List or President's 4.0 List.

To qualify, students must be undergraduates, earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher and receive grades of A or B in at least nine credits. Students who receive any grade of C+ or below or no credit (NC/NCR) in a course are not eligible.

The students on the linked lists below made UM's fall semester 2019 Dean's List or the President's 4.0 List. Double asterisks after a name indicate the student earned a 4.0 GPA. A single asterisk indicates a GPA greater than 3.5 but less than 4.0.

- [In-State Dean's and President's List Fall 2019 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Out-of-State Dean's and President's List Fall 2019 \(PDF\)](#)

See an interactive map of students who made the lists on [UM's Dean's List webpage](#).

###

**Contact:** UM Office of the Registrar, 406-243-5600, [graduation@umontana.edu](mailto:graduation@umontana.edu).



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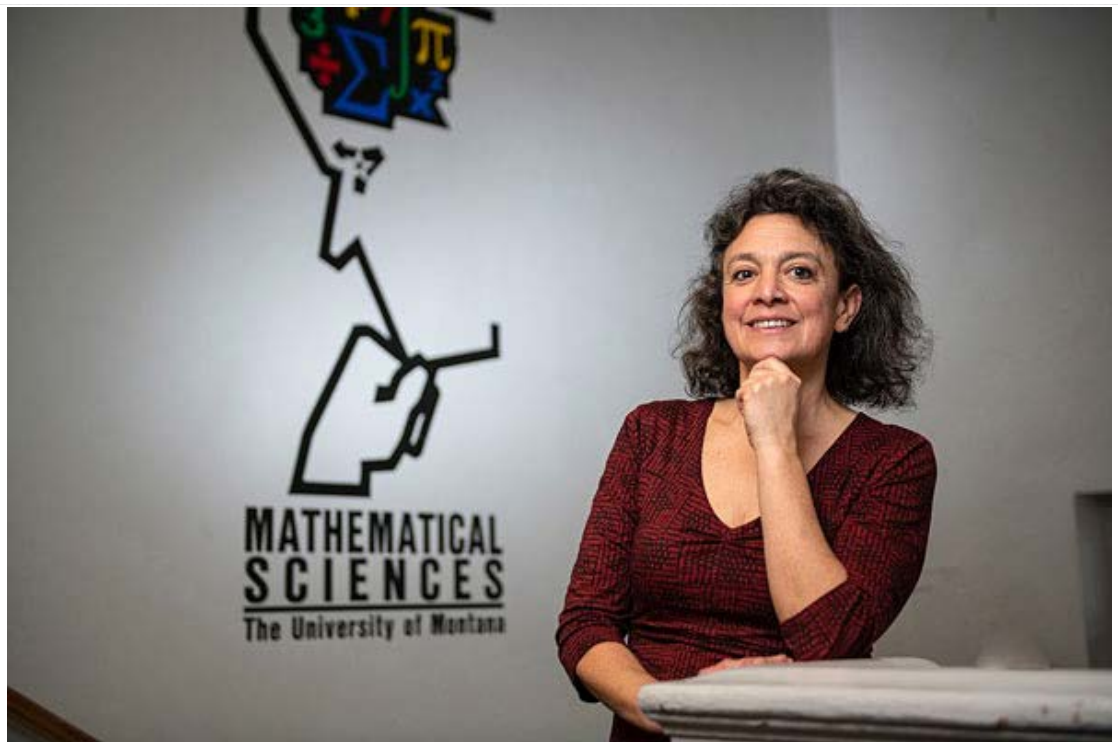
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# Mathematics Educator Named 2019 MUS Teaching Scholar

January 09, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Lauren Fern, a faculty member with the University of Montana Department of Mathematics, recently was named a 2019 Montana University System Teaching Scholar.

Fern lectures and serves as student success coordinator in the math department. She is one of 12



faculty members  
across Montana  
selected for the  
program's inaugural

class by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the MUS Board of Regents. Those selected for this new honor develop high-impact teaching practices for student success and serve as exemplary models for others in higher education.

"It's a joy to be recognized for my commitment to students and the impact I have on them – not only as mathematical learners, but holistically," Fern said. "This program offers a great opportunity to deepen and extend this impact to further enhance the education of our students at UM."

Fern will receive a \$1,500 award, as well as a \$500 stipend to design and facilitate a faculty learning community at UM.

"With this award I plan to gather a small group of math faculty from both Missoula College and the mountain campus to further develop and coordinate our math co-requisite courses and student success efforts more strategically," she said. "We will build activities to actively engage students at all skill levels to reach their potential and deepen their conceptual understanding of core mathematical ideas in meaningful contexts."

Faculty groups established by the MUS Teaching Scholar Program will work together to learn about and develop practices focused on this year's scholars theme, "High-Impact Practices for Student Success." The theme builds on a larger MUS project regarding high-impact practices funded through the Lumina Foundation.

High-impact practices proven to positively affect student success include freshman seminars on financial literacy, campus resources, study habit improvement, service learning, undergraduate research, internships and senior-year "capstone" research projects.

"This new MUS program is one way our office can celebrate and support outstanding faculty who are committed to making student learning more innovative, exciting and meaningful," said Dr. Brock Tessman, an OCHE deputy commissioner.

###

**Contact:** Lauren Fern, UM lecturer and mathematics student success coordinator, 406-243-5398,  
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# UM Launches Joint Wildlife Biology and Public Administration Degree

January 08, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Recognizing an increasing demand for careers in wildlife biology and public and nonprofit administration, the University of Montana’s Master of Public Administration and Wildlife Biology programs have created a new joint degree. The program is one of the first of its kind in the country.

The program, referred to as a “4+1” program, will allow UM students to earn both a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife biology and a two-year master’s degree in public administration at an accelerated

the usual six.

The new degree program is led by



Sara Rinfret, director of the Department of Public Administration and Policy in UM's Alexander Blewett III School of Law, and Chad Bishop, director of

UM's Wildlife Biology Program. Wildlife Biology is a joint program of the University's W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the Division of Biological Sciences in UM's College of Humanities and Sciences and the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

"Our programs are committed to serving workforce demands and our collaboration will help to strengthen the gap between science, policy and public service," Rinfret said.

Students who graduate with both wildlife biology and MPA degrees will be prepared for leadership roles within government agencies and nonprofit organizations, Bishop said.

"Employers have consistently indicated a need for students majoring in wildlife biology to have a stronger foundation in public administration and policy," Bishop said. "Our new joint program squarely addresses this need and we look forward to teaching and working with the many UM students who are interested in the program."

Rinfret and Bishop first met in early summer 2019 to develop an innovative program that gives wildlife biology students the advantage of enhancing their field work expertise with the core curriculum of UM's MPA program, which includes training in human resource management, policy analysis, applied research methods, budgeting and finance, and public administration organization theory.

To be eligible for the program, UM students must be wildlife biology majors of at least junior standing with a 3.5 GPA.

For more information visit the Department of Public Administration and Policy website at <https://www.umt.edu/law/mpa/>.

###

**Contact:** Sara Rinfret, associate professor, director and chair, UM Public Administration Program, 406-243-4702, [sara.rinfret@umontana.edu](mailto:sara.rinfret@umontana.edu).





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# International Student Educator Named 2019 MUS Teaching Scholar

January 07, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Sara Schroeder, an instructor with the University of Montana English Language Institute, recently was named a 2019 Montana University System Teaching Scholar.

Schroeder is one of 12 faculty members across Montana selected for the



program's inaugural class by the Office of the Commissioner of

Higher Education and the MUS Board of Regents. Those selected for this new honor develop high-impact teaching practices for student success and serve as exemplary models for others in higher education.

"I'm surprised and very pleased and honored to receive this recognition," Schroeder said. "I'm fortunate to work as part of a team that's dedicated to attracting international students to our campus from all over the world. Once international students arrive here, we work to provide them with engaging classes and meaningful cultural experiences."

Schroeder will receive a \$1,500 award, as well as a \$500 stipend to design and facilitate a faculty learning community at UM.

"My learning community will focus on promoting intercultural exchange between domestic and international students in classrooms all across campus," she said. "The fact that the Montana University System has chosen to support this learning community shows that they see the great value in creating more global learning on our campuses, and that's very exciting."

Based in UM's Global Engagement Office, the English Language Institute serves non-native speakers of English who wish to improve their English language and academic skills in order to pursue their academic goals in higher learning, as well as personal and professional goals.

Faculty groups established by the MUS Teaching Scholar Program will work together to learn about and develop practices focused on this year's scholars theme, "High-Impact Practices for Student Success." The theme builds on a larger MUS project regarding high-impact practices funded through the Lumina Foundation.

High-impact practices proven to positively affect student success include freshman seminars on financial literacy, campus resources, study habit improvement, service learning, undergraduate research, internships and senior-year "capstone" research projects.

“Our talented and dedicated faculty are in many ways the lifeblood of the Montana University System,” said Dr. Brock Tessman, an OCHE deputy commissioner. “This is particularly true when it comes to providing a high-quality academic experience for our students. This new MUS program is one way our office can celebrate and support outstanding faculty who are committed to making student learning more innovative, exciting and meaningful.”

###

**Contact:** Sara Schroeder, UM English Language Institute instructor, 406-243-2288, [sara.schroeder@mso.umt.edu](mailto:sara.schroeder@mso.umt.edu).



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## UM News

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# Griz Winter Welcome Planned for Returning UM Students

January 07, 2020

**MISSOULA** – A flurry of activities called Griz Winter Welcome will greet students returning to the University of Montana after winter break.

The free events will be held Thursday, Jan. 9, through Friday, Jan. 17. They will include everything from s'mores around a campfire to a Roaring '20s-themed party.

"We have some fun things planned to get students engaged and excited for spring semester," said Hailey Michelson, the program adviser with UM's Student Involvement Network. "It lets us tell students we are glad they are back!"





Spring semester classes start Monday, Jan. 13. Scheduled events for Griz Winter Welcome are:

- **Thursday, Jan. 9** – A Lady Griz basketball game against the Eastern Washington Eagles starting at 7 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.
- **Friday, Jan. 10** – Residence Hall Activities. Check for posters in your residence hall lobby.
- **Saturday, Jan. 11** – Grocery Bingo from 7 to 9 p.m. in the University Center Room 330. The event lets students meet new people and potentially win groceries.
- **Sunday, Jan. 12** – Campfire and S'mores from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Oval. This event will offer a cozy campfire, treats, hot chocolate and conversation.
- **Thursday, Jan. 16** – Popcorn Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. in the University Center Branch Center.
- **Thursday, Jan. 16** – A University Center Art Gallery Opening Reception from 4 to 6 p.m. in the UC Art Gallery. "Visible Invisible – A Juried Art Show" will offer a new art installation and free appetizers.
- **Thursday, Jan. 16** – "Branch Center Live: Voices with a Vision" from 7 to 8 p.m. in the second-floor UC Branch Center. The event will include local vocalist Red Clover, appetizers and great company.
- **Friday, Jan. 17** – "Roaring '20s Party: A Look at the Harlem Renaissance" from 8 to 10 p.m. in the UC Ballroom. Students will enjoy food, games, live music and dancing. Those who wear '20s attire have a chance to win a costume contest.

A full schedule is online at <http://bit.ly/2Fp8QT5>, as well on the UM App (<https://www.umt.edu/mobile/>).

###

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# UM Art Museum to Celebrate 125 Years with Monte Dolack Exhibit

January 06, 2020

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Museum of Art and Culture will present the work of beloved Montana artist Monte Dolack as the inaugural exhibition of its 125th season.

An opening reception for “Monte Dolack: The Artist’s Nature” will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, in the UM Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center lobby.

An alum of UM’s School of

Visual and Media Arts, Dolack has helped define the nature and character of his home state of Montana for the past half-century. Along with Edgar Paxson, Charles M. Russell and Rudy Autio, he stands among those artists who have spread Montana's fame worldwide.



The exhibit "Monte Dolack: The Artist's Nature" will run from Jan. 17 to June 20 in the PAR/TV Center's Meloy and Paxson galleries.

A lifelong resident of the Treasure State, Dolack grew up in Great Falls, where he fell in love with the diverse natural landscapes of the region. After studying at Montana State University, he studied at UM with several well-known artists, including Autio. He has lived in Missoula ever since.

On campus, Dolack drew cartoons for the Montana Kaimin, sold pottery at the first campus art fair and designed posters for the Aber Day kegger.

He began his career in a studio above the Top Hat restaurant, making a name for himself as both painter and graphic artist and designing everything from album covers to rubber stamps. He also created logos for many familiar Missoula businesses, such as Butterfly Herbs and the Trailhead.

From 1992 until 2015, he owned and managed a flourishing studio and gallery. His commercial success allowed him to pursue the artistic genre he loves best – paintings of the great outdoors that display both empathy and concern for the natural environment.

Those interests brought him commissions from respected environmental organizations such as the Defenders of Wildlife, the Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited. He designed the official national commemorative poster for the 50th anniversary of the American Wilderness Act.

He received the Montana Governor's Award for the Arts in 2018 and the UM College of the Arts and Media's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2009. In 2000, the Missoulian selected him as one of the 100 most influential Montanans of the 20th century.

Dolack has traveled the world, painting and drawing in Antarctica, Europe, Egypt, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and South America and creating works that display his sense of humor, interests in mythology and storytelling, and, above all, profound love of nature and commitment to its preservation. He is known well beyond the state, and his works are part of private and museum collections across the country and the globe, from Japan to Ireland.

The MMAC exhibition brings together many of his original oil paintings, sketches, lithographs and posters.

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## UM News

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# Accreditation Marks 85 years of Forestry Education at UM

January 06, 2020

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana's bachelor's degree in forestry has been reaccredited by the Society of American Foresters, marking 85 years of UM delivering an exceptional, professional forestry education. UM's forestry program was one of the first in the country to be accredited in 1935 and



remains the only professionally accredited forestry degree in Montana.

“For more than a century, UM’s graduates have grown an international reputation for our forestry program,” said David Affleck, chair of the Department of Forest Management in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. “Our reaccreditation signals to our students and to the profession that UM forestry students are well equipped to meet the demands of the field.”

To achieve reaccreditation, the program underwent a rigorous assessment by an outside team of educators and practicing foresters, in addition to a comprehensive review by the Society of American Foresters’ national Committee on Accreditation. UM’s forestry program had to demonstrate that it fully prepares graduates for the profession, is administered by faculty with diverse expertise and engages in continuous improvement through assessment and amendment.

Currently serving 120 students, UM’s forestry program teaches students how to promote, sustain and conserve forest resources, from water and wildlife to wood products. Students build expertise in the biological, physical, social and management sciences vital to the stewardship of forested landscapes by studying ecology, fire, silviculture, sustainable timber harvesting and many other topics. Students learn how to integrate these disciplines to manage forests for resources as diverse as wildlife habitat, wood products, recreation and terrestrial carbon.

The program emphasizes hands-on, experiential learning and students spend extensive time outdoors working on real-world projects, often in conjunction with partners in public and private forest management agencies. UM forestry alumni oversee forestlands across the country working as foresters, fire management officers, forest planners, timber managers, business owners and more.

“I am exceptionally proud of our forestry degree and the faculty that teach in this program,” said Tom DeLuca, FCFC dean. “Achieving SAF accreditation is valuable as a recruiting tool, is an enormous value to our forestry students when they enter the job market and serves as an affirmation of the enduring strength of our forestry degree program.”

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## UM News

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# Professor Named 2019 MUS Teaching Scholar

January 03, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Tobin Shearer, a University of Montana history professor and director of the African-American Studies department, recently was named a 2019 Montana University System Teaching Scholar.

Shearer is one of 12 faculty members across Montana selected for the program's inaugural class by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and Board of





Regents. Those selected for this new honor develop high-impact teaching practices for student success and serve as exemplary models for others in higher education.

“Our talented and dedicated faculty are in many ways the lifeblood of the Montana University System,” said Dr. Brock Tessman, an OCHE deputy commissioner. “This is particularly true when it comes to providing a high-quality academic experience for our students. This program is one way our office can celebrate and support outstanding faculty who are committed to making student learning more innovative, exciting and meaningful.”

Shearer will receive a \$1,500 award, as well as a \$500 stipend to design and facilitate a faculty learning community at UM.

“It’s just a true honor to receive this award and be recognized for effective teaching practices,” Shearer said. “It is my students who really deserve the award. They make my teaching possible and a true joy.”

With this award Shearer plans to gather a small group of faculty who will support each other’s efforts to improve their general education classes.

Faculty groups established by the MUS Teaching Scholar Program will work together to learn about and develop practices focused on this year’s scholars theme, “High-Impact Practices for Student Success.” The theme builds on a larger MUS project regarding high-impact practices funded through the Lumina Foundation.

High-impact practices proven to positively affect student success include freshman seminars on financial literacy, campus resources, study habit improvement, service learning, undergraduate research, internships and senior-year “capstone” research projects.

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# UM Waives January Application Fees for Two Business Graduate Programs

January 02, 2020

**MISSOULA** – Bring in the new year by making a commitment to your future. There has never been a better time to apply to graduate school at the University of Montana. During the entire month of January, the UM College of Business will waive application fees for the [Master of Business Administration](#) and



Master of Science in  
Business Analytics  
programs.

Applicants will need to submit the intent to apply form – online at <http://bit.ly/37m7DYL> –in order to receive a code that will waive the \$60 application fee. The code can then be entered at the end of the official application process.

Both the MBA and MSBA degrees at UM are offered with flexible delivery options. Students can earn their graduate degrees online, on campus or through a combination of the two.

Students who apply by Feb. 1 also will have priority access to scholarships and graduate assistantship opportunities.

An MBA from UM prepares students to operate in today's rapidly changing professional environment. The business college will help broaden and deepen the knowledge and skills to meet today's challenges and succeed in the workplace of the future.

Data has become more than a trend, it's the new language of business. An MSBA from UM prepares graduates for successful careers at the intersection of business, statistics and computing.

The MBA and MSBA are two of three graduate programs offered by the UM College of Business. The other offering, Master of Accountancy, is a nationally and regionally ranked accounting program. For more information on the M.Acct. and the application offer during the month of January, visit the College of Business graduate programs website.

For more information on the MBA or MSBA programs, email programs director Dawn Hambrick at [dawn.hambrick@mso.umt.edu](mailto:dawn.hambrick@mso.umt.edu) or call 406-243-2064.

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